POSTAL MARKINGS ON MAIL FROM SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON 1858-1958

The purpose of this exhibit is to show postal markings applied to letters leaving Saint-Pierre for destinations in Canada, France and the United States. There never was a direct transatlantic connection between Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (SPM) and North American or overseas countries. Letters posted in SPM were sent to Canada and then forwarded to their destination.
Most mail was directed to North Sydney, Nova Scotia (16 hours sailing time). During the winter months (from the end of December to the beginning of April) when the North Sydney harbor was blocked by ice, the mail was directed to Halifax (34 hours sailing time). In Halifax the mail was processed in the regular postal system and was carried overseas through the city's connections to England via transatlantic packets.

A relatively large amount of mail was taken from SPM in loose pouches rather than closed bags. The loose mail was not cancelled in SPM but at the nearest port where it was delivered before being forwarded. Hence some of the markings were applied in Saint-Pierre (closed bags) while others were cancelled in Halifax, North Sydney or Saint John's, Newfoundland (mail carried in loose bags).

This early cover to Saint-Malo, France, bears the manuscript indication *Voie d'Angleterre par Halifax et Liverpool* (Via England through Halifax and Liverpool). The earliest dated postmark from Îles St. Pierre et Miquelon and the transit marking of Calais appear at front. The manuscript 6 decimes is the fee to be paid by the recipient for the transportation of the letter from Calais to Saint-Malo (316 milles). The receiving mark of Saint-Malo is on the reverse.

Examples of mail destined to Canada, France or the United States, passing through Halifax, North Sydney, and Saint-John's are shown. The postmarks applied to the SPM stamps are exhibited in chronological order: Various circular dated postmarks, cork cancels, linear *Paquebot* markings, duplexes, machine cancels as well as the Posted-at-Sea hand stamps and slogan cancels.